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Christopher Carty

*Special Conflicts Counsel to the Official Committee of
Unsecured Creditors of Sears Holdings Corporation, et al.*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

-----	X	
In re:	:	Chapter 11
	:	
SEARS HOLDINGS CORPORATION, <i>et al.</i> ,	:	Case No. 18-23538 (RDD)
	:	
Debtors ¹	:	(Jointly Administered)
	:	
-----	X	

**COVER SHEET FOR SEVENTH INTERIM FEE APPLICATION
OF HERRICK, FEINSTEIN LLP AS SPECIAL CONFLICTS COUNSEL
TO THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS
FOR ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND
REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD OF PERIOD
NOVEMBER 1, 2021 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are as follows: Sears Holdings Corporation (0798); Kmart Holding Corporation (3116); Kmart Operations LLC (6546); Sears Operations LLC (4331); Sears, Roebuck and Co. (0680); ServiceLive Inc. (6774); A&E Factory Service, LLC (6695); A&E Home Delivery, LLC (0205); A&E Lawn & Garden, LLC (5028); A&E Signature Service, LLC (0204); FBA Holdings Inc. (6537); Innovel Solutions, Inc. (7180); Kmart Corporation (9500); MaxServ, Inc. (7626); Private Brands, Ltd. (4022); Sears Development Co. (6028); Sears Holdings Management Corporation (2148); Sears Home & Business Franchises, Inc. (6742); Sears Home Improvement Products, Inc. (8591); Sears Insurance Services, L.L.C. (7182); Sears Procurement Services, Inc. (2859); Sears Protection Company (1250); Sears Protection Company (PR) Inc. (4861); Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. (0535); Sears, Roebuck de Puerto Rico, Inc. (3626); SYW Relay LLC (1870); Wally Labs LLC (None); Big Beaver of Florida Development, LLC (None); California Builder Appliances, Inc. (6327); Florida Builder Appliances, Inc. (9133); KBL Holding Inc. (1295); KLC, Inc. (0839); Kmart of Michigan, Inc. (1696); Kmart of Washington LLC (8898); Kmart Stores of Illinois LLC (8897); Kmart Stores of Texas LLC (8915); MyGofer LLC (5531); Sears Brands Business Unit Corporation (4658); Sears Holdings Publishing Company, LLC. (5554); Sears Protection Company (Florida), L.L.C. (4239); SHC Desert Springs, LLC (None); SOE, Inc. (9616); StarWest, LLC (5379); STI Merchandising, Inc. (0188); Troy Coolidge No. 13, LLC (None); BlueLight.com, Inc. (7034); Sears Brands, L.L.C. (4664); Sears Buying Services, Inc. (6533); Kmart.com LLC (9022); SHC Licensed Business LLC (3718); SHC Promotions LLC (9626); Sears Brands Management Corporation (5365); and SRe Holding Corporation (4816). The location of the Debtors' corporate headquarters is 3333 Beverly Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60179.

General Information	
Name of Applicant:	Herrick, Feinstein LLP (“ <u>Herrick</u> ”)
Authorized to Provide Professional Services to:	The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors and the Litigation Designees ²
Petition Date:	October 15, 2018
Date of Retention:	March 22, 2019 <i>nunc pro tunc</i> to January 2, 2019
Prior Applications:	6
Summary of Fees and Expenses Sought in this Application	
Period Covered by this Application:	November 1, 2021 through and including February 28, 2022 (the “ <u>Compensation Period</u> ”)
Amount of Compensation Sought as Actual, Reasonable and Necessary for the Compensation Period:	\$46,688.00
Amount of Expense Reimbursement Sought as Actual, Reasonable and Necessary for the Compensation Period:	\$509.69
Total Compensation and Expenses Requested for the Compensation Period:	\$47,197.69
Summary of Fees and Expenses Allowed Pursuant to Prior Applications	
Total Compensation Approved by Interim Order to Date:	\$3,834,060.50
Total Expenses Approved by Interim Order to Date:	\$383,093.27

² As described further herein, in addition to its role as special conflicts counsel to the Creditors’ Committee in connection with an investigation into the MTN Transactions (as defined herein), Herrick has been retained to serve as special conflicts counsel to act on behalf of the Litigation Designees to investigate, commence, prosecute and otherwise litigate certain matters in connection with the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action. *See Order (I) Confirming Modified Second Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Sears Holdings Corporation and Its Affiliated Debtors and (II) Granting Related Relief*, dated October 15, 2019 [ECF No. 5370] (the “Confirmation Order”) ¶ 22 (“In addition, without further order of this Court, the Litigation Designees may retain such additional professionals or consultants (including attorneys, accountants, appraisers, financial advisors, expert witnesses or other parties determined by the Initial Litigation Designees to have qualifications necessary or desirable to assist in the investigation, prosecution and/or settlement of the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action) . . .”).

Total Compensation and Expenses Approved by Interim Order to Date:	\$4,217,153.77
Total Allowed Compensation Paid to Date:	\$3,818,805.50
Total Allowed Expenses Paid to Date	\$383,093.27
Total Allowed Compensation and Expenses Paid to Date:	\$4,201,898.77
<i>Summary of Fees, Professionals, Rates and Budget in this Application</i>	
Compensation Sought in this Application Already Paid Pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order But Not Yet Allowed (80% of Fees):	\$27,640.00 ³
Expenses Sought in this Application Already Paid Pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order But Not Yet Allowed (100% of Expenses):	\$396.81
Total Compensation and Expenses Sought in this Application Already Paid Pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order But Not Yet Allowed:	\$28,036.81
Total Compensation and Expenses Sought in this Application Not Yet Paid:	\$19,160.88
Voluntary Fee Waiver and Expense Reduction in this Compensation Period:	n/a
<i>Summary of Fees and Expenses Sought in this Application</i>	
Blended Rate in this Application for All Attorneys:	\$858.44
Blended Rate in this Application for All Timekeepers:	\$765.38
Number of Timekeepers Included in this Application:	5 (4 attorneys; 1 paraprofessionals)

³ Herrick has received (i) \$2,519.20 (80% of \$3,024.50 billed to the Debtors' carve-out account) as compensation for services rendered during the period of November 1, 2021 through November 31, 2021, as requested in the Twenty-Fourth Monthly Fee Statement (as defined below), (ii) \$14,589.20 (80% of \$18,236.50 billed to the Debtors' carve-out account) as compensation for services rendered during the period December 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 as requested in the Twenty-Fifth Monthly Fee Statement (as defined below), and (iii) \$10,531.60 (80% of \$13,164.50) as compensation for services rendered during the period January 1, 2022 through January 31, 2022 as requested in the Twenty-Sixth Monthly Fee Statement (as defined below).

Number of Attorneys Billing Fewer than 15 Hours to the Case During the Compensation Period:	4
Increase in Rates Since Date of Retention:	3 ⁴
Interim or Final Application:	Interim

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY FEE STATEMENTS

DATE FILED	ECF NO.	PERIOD COVERED	FEES REQUESTED	EXPENSES REQUESTED	FEES PAID	EXPENSES PAID
12/15/21	10159	11/1/21-11/30/21	\$3,009.20 (80% of \$3,761.50)	\$100.00	\$2,519.20	\$100.00
2/15/22	10310	12/1/21-12/31/21	\$15,813.20 (80% of \$19,766.50)	\$106.84	\$14,589.20	\$106.84
3/1/22	10342	1/1/22-1/31/22	\$10,531.60 (80% of \$13,164.50)	\$189.97	\$10,531.60	\$189.97
4/12/22	10392	2/1/22-2/28/22	\$7,996.40 (80% of \$9,995.50)	\$112.88	\$0	\$0

Summary of Any Objections to Monthly Fee Statements: None

Compensation and Expenses Sought in This Application Not Yet Paid: \$19,160.88

⁴ Herrick increased its rates on January 1, 2022, consistent with its customary practice and as disclosed in the Herrick Retention Application (as defined herein).

COMPENSATION BY PROFESSIONAL
NOVEMBER 1, 2021 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Name of Professional	Position	Department	Year Admitted	Hourly Billing Rate 2021/2022	Total Hours Billed	Total Compensation
O'Donnell, Sean	Partner	Restructuring & Finance Litigation	1998	\$1,075.00/ \$1,125.00	1	\$1,100.00
Carty, Christopher	Partner	Restructuring & Finance Litigation	2010	\$850.00 / \$925.00	37.6	\$33,700.00
Kolb, Kyle J.	Partner ⁵	Restructuring & Finance Litigation	2012	\$690.00 / \$715.00	9.3	\$6,434.00
Zimmer, Heather	Associate	Restructuring & Finance Litigation	2018	\$475.00	0.3	\$142.50
Poretsky, Larisa	Paralegal	Restructuring & Finance Litigation	N/A	\$410.00 / \$455.00	12.8	\$5,311.00

⁵ Effective January 1, 2022.

TOTAL FEES FOR THE COMPENSATION PERIOD

PROFESSIONALS	BLENDED RATE	TOTAL HOURS BILLED	TOTAL COMPENSATION
Partners	\$898.23	39.3	\$35,300.50
Counsel	\$690.00	8.6	\$5,934.00
Associates	\$475.00	0.3	\$142.50
Paraprofessionals	\$414.92	12.8	\$5,311.00
Blended Attorney Rate	\$858.44		
Blended Rate for All Timekeepers	\$765.38		
Total Fees Incurred			\$46,688.00

TOTAL BY TASK CODE
NOVEMBER 1, 2021 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Task Code⁶	Total Hours Billed	Total Amount
Fee/Employment Applications - B160	15.1	\$7,341.00
Contested Matters - B190	43.1	\$37,079.50
Jointly Asserted Causes of Action	2.8	\$2,267.50
Total	61	\$46,688.00

⁶ The fees related to task codes B160 and B190 are Herrick's fees attributable to the services it performs as counsel to the Creditors' Committee in connection with the Chapter 11 Cases, and such fees are paid out of the Debtors' carve-out account. Pursuant to the terms of the Plan and Confirmation Order, however, Herrick's fees and expenses attributable to the services it performs in connection with the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action are paid out of a segregated account established to provide initial funding for such litigation. *See* Confirmation Order ¶ 52(d). During the Compensation Period, Herrick incurred no fees and expenses related to the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action.

EXPENSE SUMMARY
NOVEMBER 1, 2021 THROUGH AND INCLUDING FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Description	Amount billed
Document Processing	\$12.88
Pacer Charges	\$28.10
Online Research (Westlaw)	\$61.87
Printing – Blowback	\$6.84
E-Discovery Data Hosting Minimum Charge	\$400.00
Total	\$509.69

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**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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In re:	:	Chapter 11
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SEARS HOLDINGS CORPORATION, <i>et al.</i> ,	:	Case No. 18-23538 (RDD)
	:	
Debtors ¹	:	(Jointly Administered)
	:	
	:	
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**SEVENTH INTERIM FEE APPLICATION OF HERRICK, FEINSTEIN LLP
AS SPECIAL CONFLICTS COUNSEL TO THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE
OF UNSECURED CREDITORS FOR ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION
FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE
PERIOD OF NOVEMBER 1, 2021 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are as follows: Sears Holdings Corporation (0798); Kmart Holding Corporation (3116); Kmart Operations LLC (6546); Sears Operations LLC (4331); Sears, Roebuck and Co. (0680); ServiceLive Inc. (6774); A&E Factory Service, LLC (6695); A&E Home Delivery, LLC (0205); A&E Lawn & Garden, LLC (5028); A&E Signature Service, LLC (0204); FBA Holdings Inc. (6537); Innovel Solutions, Inc. (7180); Kmart Corporation (9500); MaxServ, Inc. (7626); Private Brands, Ltd. (4022); Sears Development Co. (6028); Sears Holdings Management Corporation (2148); Sears Home & Business Franchises, Inc. (6742); Sears Home Improvement Products, Inc. (8591); Sears Insurance Services, L.L.C. (7182); Sears Procurement Services, Inc. (2859); Sears Protection Company (1250); Sears Protection Company (PR) Inc. (4861); Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. (0535); Sears, Roebuck de Puerto Rico, Inc. (3626); SYW Relay LLC (1870); Wally Labs LLC (None); Big Beaver of Florida Development, LLC (None); California Builder Appliances, Inc. (6327); Florida Builder Appliances, Inc. (9133); KBL Holding Inc. (1295); KLC, Inc. (0839); Kmart of Michigan, Inc. (1696); Kmart of Washington LLC (8898); Kmart Stores of Illinois LLC (8897); Kmart Stores of Texas LLC (8915); MyGofer LLC (5531); Sears Brands Business Unit Corporation (4658); Sears Holdings Publishing Company, LLC. (5554); Sears Protection Company (Florida), L.L.C. (4239); SHC Desert Springs, LLC (None); SOE, Inc. (9616); StarWest, LLC (5379); STI Merchandising, Inc. (0188); Troy Coolidge No. 13, LLC (None); BlueLight.com, Inc. (7034); Sears Brands, L.L.C. (4664); Sears Buying Services, Inc. (6533); Kmart.com LLC (9022); SHC Licensed Business LLC (3718); SHC Promotions LLC (9626); Sears Brands Management Corporation (5365); and SRe Holding Corporation (4816). The location of the Debtors' corporate headquarters is 3333 Beverly Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60179.

Herrick Feinstein LLP (“Herrick”), special conflicts counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the “Creditors’ Committee”) appointed in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the “Chapter 11 Cases”) of Sears Holding Corporation and its affiliated debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “Debtors”), hereby respectfully submits its sixth application (the “Application”),² pursuant to sections 330(a) and 331 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”), Rule 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”) and Rule 2016-1 of the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the Southern District of New York (the “Local Bankruptcy Rules”), requesting interim allowance of compensation for services rendered to the Creditors’ Committee and the Litigation Designees by Herrick for the period of November 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022 (the “Compensation Period”) and for reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection therewith. In support of this Application, Herrick respectfully submits the declaration of Stephen B. Selbst, a partner at Herrick (the “Selbst Declaration”), which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by reference into this Application. In further support of this Application, Herrick respectfully represents as follows.

INTRODUCTION

1. By this Application, Herrick seeks (i) interim allowance of compensation for the professional services rendered by Herrick during the Compensation Period in the amount of \$46,688.00, representing 48.2 hours of professional services and 12.8 hours of paraprofessional and other non-legal services, and (ii) reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred by Herrick during the Compensation Period in the amount of \$509.69.

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the *Order (I) Confirming Modified Second Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Sears Holdings Corporation and Its Affiliated Debtors and (II) Granting Related Relief*, dated October 15, 2019 [ECF No. 5370] (the “Confirmation Order”) or the *Modified Second Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Sears Holdings Corporation and Its Affiliated Debtors* [ECF No. 4476] (the “Plan”), as applicable.

2. This Application has been prepared in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Bankruptcy Rules, the *Order Authorizing Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Professionals* [ECF No. 796] (the “Interim Compensation Order”), the Amended Guidelines for Fees and Disbursements for Professionals in the Southern District of New York (June 17, 2013) promulgated pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 2016-1(a) (the “Local Guidelines”) and the United States Trustee’s Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under 11 U.S.C. § 330 for Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases, effective as of November 1, 2013 (the “U.S. Trustee Guidelines” and, together with the Local Guidelines, the “Fee Guidelines”).

3. The Chair (as defined herein) of the Creditors’ Committee has been given the opportunity to review this Application and has approved the compensation and reimbursement of expenses requested herein.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has jurisdiction over this Application pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334. This matter is a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2).

5. Venue in this Court is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

6. The statutory bases for the relief requested herein are Bankruptcy Code sections 330 and 331, Bankruptcy Rule 2016 and Local Bankruptcy Rule 2016-1.

BACKGROUND

A. The Debtors’ Chapter 11 Cases

7. On October 15, 2018 (the “Petition Date”), and continuing thereafter, each of the Debtors filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors continue to operate their businesses as debtors in possession pursuant to Bankruptcy Code sections

1107(a) and 1108. The Chapter 11 Cases are jointly administered for procedural purposes only. No trustee or examiner has been appointed in the Chapter 11 Cases.

8. On October 24, 2018 (the “Formation Date”), the Office of the United States Trustee for Region 2 (the “U.S. Trustee”) appointed the Creditors’ Committee pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 1102(a). *Notice of Appointment of Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors* [ECF No. 276]. The Creditors’ Committee currently comprises seven members.³ Simon Property Group, L.P. serves as chair of the Creditors’ Committee (the “Chair”).

B. Herrick’s Role as Special Conflicts Counsel in Connection with an Investigation of the MTN Transactions

9. On November 9, 2018, the Debtors filed an emergency motion [ECF No. 642] (the “Sale Motion”), seeking to monetize certain Medium-Term Notes Series B (the “MTNs”) issued by Debtor Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. (“SRAC”) (collectively, the “MTN Transactions”) in advance of an auction (the “CDS Auction”) to be conducted by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (“ISDA”). The value of the MTNs spiked temporarily because of the demand for qualifying SRAC obligations to tender into the CDS Auction. *See* Sale Motion ¶ 11. The Debtors sought to capitalize on this opportunity and engaged Jefferies LLC to manage and conduct the sale process for the MTNs. On November 15, 2018, the Court granted the relief requested by the Sale Motion and entered an order approving the sale of the MTNs [ECF No. 826] (the “Sale Order”).

10. On January 2, 2019, the Creditors’ Committee selected Herrick as its special conflicts counsel in connection with the Chapter 11 Cases in order to investigate the MTN

³ The following entities currently comprise the Creditors’ Committee: (i) The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Indenture Trustee; (ii) Brixmor Operating Partnership, L.P.; (iii) Computershare Trust Company, N.A.; (iv) Oswaldo Cruz; (v) Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; (vi) Simon Property Group, L.P.; and (vii) Winiadaewoo Electronics America, Inc. *See Amended Notice of Appointment of Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors*, dated March 31, 2020 [ECF No. 7539].

Transactions. On February 13, 2019, the Creditors' Committee filed its application to retain and employ Herrick as its special conflicts counsel [ECF No. 2574] (the "Herrick Retention Application"), which application was authorized by an order of this Court dated March 21, 2019 [ECF No. 2936] (the "Herrick Retention Order").

11. The Herrick Retention Order authorizes the Creditors' Committee to retain and employ Herrick in accordance with Herrick's normal hourly rates and disbursement policies, *nunc pro tunc* to January 2, 2019, all as contemplated by the Herrick Retention Application. Specifically, the Herrick Retention Order authorizes Herrick to be compensated on an hourly basis and to be reimbursed for actual and necessary out-of-pocket expenses.

12. On January 12, 2019, Herrick, on behalf of the Creditors' Committee, filed a motion pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2004 [ECF No. 1557] seeking to examine certain CDS participants who were either involved with the MTN Transactions or who opposed the sale of the MTNs. On February 15, 2019, the Court entered the *Order Pursuant To Bankruptcy Code Sections 105 And 1103 And Federal Rules Of Bankruptcy Procedure 2004 And 9016 Authorizing The Examination Of The CDS Participants* [ECF No. 2628] (the "Rule 2004 Order"). Herrick serves as the Creditors' Committee special counsel with respect to the investigation authorized by the Rule 2004 Order (the "Rule 2004 Investigation").

C. Herrick's Role as Special Conflicts Counsel in Connection with Certain of the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action

13. On October 15, 2019, the Court entered the Confirmation Order [ECF No. 5370] approving the Plan. Pursuant to the Confirmation Order, the Creditors' Committee was granted joint standing with the Debtors to commence, prosecute, settle and otherwise dispose of the: (i) Specified Causes of Action; (ii) other Preserved Causes of Action against the ESL Parties; (iii) all claims and causes of action asserted in the pending adversary proceeding captioned *Sears Holdings Corp. v. Lampert*, Adv. Pro. 19-08250 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y.) (the "Adversary

Proceeding”) and any other claims or causes of action ancillary thereto; and (iv) claims or causes of action against insurance carriers related to coverage for claims asserted in the Adversary Proceeding (the foregoing referred to collectively as the “Jointly Asserted Causes of Action”).

14. Herrick serves as special conflicts counsel in connection with certain matters related to the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action, as overseen by the Litigation Designees.⁴

D. Prior Fee Applications and Monthly Fee Statements Filed During the Compensation Period⁵

15. On May 14, 2020, Herrick filed and served the *First Interim Fee Application of Herrick, Feinstein LLP as Special Conflict Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period of January 2, 2019 Through and Including February 29, 2020* [ECF No. 7958 (the “First Interim Fee Application”). Pursuant to the First Interim Fee Application, Herrick requested interim allowance of fees in the amount of \$1,076,531.50 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$14,827.17 for the period from January 2, 2019 through and including February 29, 2020. There were no objections to the First Interim Fee Application and, on June 18, 2020, the Court entered an order approving the First Interim Fee Application [ECF No. 8036] (the “Fourth Interim Fee Order”). Pursuant to the Fourth Interim Fee Order, on July 21, 2020, Herrick received payment of \$205,106.74 (representing the 20% of fees withheld from the payments made on account of the monthly fee statements subject to the First Interim Fee Application).

⁴ Consistent with the terms of the Confirmation Order, which authorizes the Litigation Designees to retain additional attorneys in connection with prosecution of the Adversary Proceeding without further order of the Court, *see* Confirmation Order ¶ 22, Herrick has been retained as special conflicts counsel in connection with certain conflict matters related to the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action.

⁵ Herrick’s fees and expenses attributable to the services it performs as counsel to the Creditors’ Committee in connection with the Chapter 11 Cases are paid out of the Debtors’ carve-out account. Pursuant to the terms of the Plan and Confirmation Order, however, Herrick’s fees and expenses attributable to the services it performs in connection with the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action are paid out of a segregated account established to provide initial funding for such litigation. *See* Confirmation Order ¶ 52(d). During the Compensation Period, Herrick incurred no fees and expenses related to the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action.

16. On August 14, 2020, Herrick filed and served the *Second Interim Fee Application of Herrick, Feinstein LLP as Special Conflict Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period of March 1, 2020 Through and Including June 30, 2020* [ECF No. 8374] (the “Second Interim Fee Application”). Pursuant to the Second Interim Fee Application, Herrick requested interim allowance of fees in the amount of \$1,185,248.50 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$117,625.05 for the period from March 1, 2020 through and including June 30, 2020. There were no objections to the Second Interim Fee Application and, on October 15, 2020, the Court entered an order approving the Second Interim Fee Application [ECF No. 9009] (the “Fifth Interim Fee Order”). Pursuant to the Fifth Interim Fee Order, on November 25, November 30, 2020, and December 4, 2020, Herrick received payments totaling \$637,839.73. (including the 20% of fees withheld from the payments made on account of the monthly fee statements subject to the Second Interim Fee Application).

17. On December 15, 2020, Herrick filed and served the *Third Interim Fee Application of Herrick, Feinstein LLP as Special Conflict Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period of July 1, 2020 Through and Including October 31, 2020* [ECF No. 9179] (the “Third Interim Fee Application”). Pursuant to the Third Interim Fee Application, Herrick requested interim allowance of fees in the amount of \$834,997.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$179,163.84 for the period from July 1, 2020 through and including October 31, 2020. There were no objections to the Third Interim Fee Application and, on February 23, 2021, the Court entered an order approving the Third Interim Fee Application [ECF No. 9312] (the “Sixth Interim Fee Order”). Pursuant to the Sixth Interim Fee Order, on April 26, 2021 and June 10, 2021, Herrick received payments totaling \$166,999.40 (including the 20% of fees withheld from the

payments made on account of the monthly fee statements subject to the Third Interim Fee Application).

18. On April 14, 2021, Herrick filed and served the *Fourth Interim Fee Application of Herrick, Feinstein LLP as Special Conflict Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period of November 1, 2020 Through and Including February 28, 2021* [ECF No. 9410] (the “Fourth Interim Fee Application”). Pursuant to the Fourth Interim Fee Application, Herrick requested interim allowance of fees in the amount of \$565,994.50 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$40,707.38 for the period from November 1, 2020 through and including February 28, 2021. There were no objections to the Fourth Interim Fee Application and, on June 2, 2021, the Court entered an order approving the Fourth Interim Fee Application [ECF No. 9545] (the “Seventh Interim Fee Order”). Pursuant to the Seventh Interim Fee Order, on June 22, 2021, Herrick received payments totaling \$113,198.70 (including the 20% of fees withheld from the payments made on account of the monthly fee statements subject to the Fourth Interim Fee Application).

19. On August 16, 2021, Herrick filed and served the *Fifth Interim Fee Application of Herrick, Feinstein LLP as Special Conflict Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period of March 1, 2021 Through and Including June 30, 2021* [ECF No. 9741] (the “Fifth Interim Fee Application”). Pursuant to the Fifth Interim Fee Application, Herrick requested interim allowance of fees in the amount of \$95,014.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$551.16 for the period from March 1, 2021 through and including June 30, 2021. There were no objections to the Fifth Interim Fee Application and, on September 29, 2021, the Court entered an order approving the Fifth Interim Fee Application [ECF No. 9862] (the “Eighth Interim Fee”).

Order”). Pursuant to the Eighth Interim Fee Order, on October 6, 2021, Herrick received payments totaling \$13,900.70 (including the 20% of fees withheld from the payments made on account of the monthly fee statements subject to the Fifth Interim Fee Application).

20. On December 14, 2021, Herrick filed and served the *Sixth Interim Fee Application of Herrick, Feinstein LLP as Special Conflict Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period of July 1, 2021 Through and Including October 31, 2021* [ECF No. 10156] (the “Sixth Interim Fee Application”). Pursuant to the Sixth Interim Fee Application, Herrick requested interim allowance of fees in the amount of \$76,275.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$30,428.89 for the period from July 1, 2021 through and including October 31, 2021. There were no objections to the Sixth Interim Fee Application and, on January 20, 2022, the Court entered an order approving the Sixth Interim Fee Application [ECF No. 10252] (the “Ninth Interim Fee Order”).

21. On December 15, 2021, Herrick filed and served the *Twenty-Fourth Monthly Fee Statement of Herrick, Feinstein LLP for Professional Services Rendered and Disbursements Incurred as Special Conflicts Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for the Period of November 1, 2021 through November 31, 2021* [ECF No. 10159] (the “Twenty-Fourth Monthly Fee Statement”),⁶ pursuant to which Herrick sought payment of (i) \$3,009.20 (80% of \$3,761.50) as compensation for professional services rendered and (ii) \$100.00 for reimbursement of expenses. Herrick did not receive any objections to the Twentieth Monthly Fee Statement and received partial payment in respect thereof on December 31, 2021. Herrick has not yet received

⁶ A copy of the Twenty-Fourth Monthly Fee Statement can be accessed at:
<https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/sears/Home-DocketInfo?DockSearchValue=10159#>

payment on account of the \$737.50 billed for the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action (as defined herein).

22. On February 15, 2022, Herrick filed and served the *Twenty-Fifth Monthly Fee Statement of Herrick, Feinstein LLP for Professional Services Rendered and Disbursements Incurred as Special Conflicts Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for the Period of December 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021* [ECF No. 10310] (the “Twenty-Fifth Monthly Fee Statement”),⁷ pursuant to which Herrick sought payment of (i) \$15,813.00 (80% of \$19,766.50) as compensation for professional services rendered and (ii) \$106.84 for reimbursement of expenses. Herrick did not receive any objections to the Twenty-Fifth Monthly Fee Statement and received partial payment in respect thereof on March 28, 2022. Herrick has not yet received payment on account of the \$1,530.00 billed for the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action (as defined herein).

23. On March 1, 2022, Herrick filed and served the *Twenty-Sixth Monthly Fee Statement of Herrick, Feinstein LLP for Professional Services Rendered Eighteenth and Disbursements Incurred as Special Conflicts Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for the Period of January 1, 2022 through January 31, 2022* [ECF No. 10342] (the “Twenty-Sixth Monthly Fee Statement”),⁸ pursuant to which Herrick sought payment of (i) \$10,531.60 (80% of \$13,164.50) as compensation for professional services rendered and (ii) \$189.97 for reimbursement of expenses. Herrick did not receive any objections to the Twenty-Sixth Monthly Fee Statement and received payment in respect thereof on March 23, 2022.

⁷ A copy of the Twenty-Fifth Monthly Fee Statement can be accessed at:
<https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/sears/Home-DocketInfo?DockSearchValue=10310#>

⁸ A copy of the Twenty-Sixth Monthly Fee Statement can be accessed at:
<https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/sears/Home-DocketInfo?DockSearchValue=10342#>

24. On April 12, 2022, Herrick filed and served the *Twenty-Seventh Monthly Fee Statement of Herrick, Feinstein LLP for Professional Services Rendered and Disbursements Incurred as Special Conflicts Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for the Period of February 1, 2022 through February 28, 2022* [ECF No. 10392] (the “Twenty-Seventh Monthly Fee Statement”),⁹ pursuant to which Herrick sought payment of (i) \$7,996.40 (80% of \$9,995.50) as compensation for professional services rendered and (ii) \$112.88 for reimbursement of expenses. The objection deadline for the Twenty-Seventh Monthly Fee Statement is April 27, 2022.

**SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION
AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES REQUESTED**

25. By this Application, Herrick respectfully requests interim allowance of compensation for professional services rendered to the Creditors’ Committee during the Compensation Period in the amount of \$46,688.00 and expense reimbursements of \$509.69. During the Compensation Period, Herrick attorneys and paraprofessionals expended a total of 61 hours for which compensation is sought.

26. The fees charged by Herrick in the Chapter 11 Cases are billed in accordance with Herrick’s existing billing rates and procedures in effect during the Compensation Period. The rates Herrick charges for the services rendered by its professionals and paraprofessionals in the Chapter 11 Cases are the same rates Herrick charges for professional and paraprofessional services rendered in comparable non-bankruptcy related matters. Such fees are reasonable based on the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners in comparable non-bankruptcy cases in a competitive national legal market. The disclosures required by the U.S.

⁹ A copy of the Twenty-Seventh Monthly Fee Statement can be accessed at:
<https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/sears/Home-DocketInfo?DockSearchValue=10392#>

Trustee Guidelines regarding the customary and comparable compensation are annexed hereto as **Exhibit B.**

27. Herrick maintains computerized records of the time spent by all Herrick professionals and paraprofessionals in connection with its representation of the Creditors' Committee in the Chapter 11 Cases. A summary of compensation by timekeeper is attached hereto in **Exhibit C**, and a summary of fees by task code is attached hereto in **Exhibit D**. The itemized time records for Herrick professionals and paraprofessionals performing services for the Creditors' Committee during the Compensation Period records have been filed and served in the Monthly Fee Statements in accordance with the Interim Compensation Order.

28. Herrick also maintains records of all actual and necessary out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the rendition of its professional services. A summary of the categories of expenses and amounts for which reimbursement is requested by this Application is attached hereto as **Exhibit E**.

29. Herrick's staffing plan and budget for the Compensation Period is attached hereto as **Exhibit F**.

**SUMMARY OF SERVICES PERFORMED BY
HERRICK DURING THE COMPENSATION PERIOD**

30. The services provided by Herrick during the Compensation Period were actual and necessary for the administration of the Chapter 11 Cases, performed at the request of the Creditors' Committee and the Litigation Designees and commensurate with the complexity and significance of the matter. The variety and complexity of the issues in the Chapter 11 Cases and the need to act or respond to such issues on an expedited basis in furtherance of the Creditors' Committee's and the Litigation Designees' needs and the interests of the Debtors' unsecured creditors required the expenditure of significant time by Herrick professionals and paraprofessionals from numerous legal disciplines during the Compensation Period.

31. The following is a summary of the professional services rendered by Herrick during the Compensation Period. This summary is organized in accordance with the ABA Bankruptcy Code Set, commonly used in bankruptcy matters. In classifying services into task codes, Herrick attempted to place the services performed in the category that most closely related to the services provided. The below does not include summaries for certain task codes for which a *de minimis* amount of time was billed during the Compensation Period.

32. Moreover, the following summary of services rendered during the Compensation Period is not intended to be a detailed description of the work performed. Rather, it merely is an attempt to highlight certain of those areas in which services were rendered to the Creditors' Committee and the Litigation Designees, as well as to identify some of the matters and issues that Herrick was required to address during the Compensation Period.

B160 - FEE/EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS

Total Hours	Fees
15.1	\$7,341.00

33. This category includes the time spent by Herrick professionals and paraprofessionals preparing and drafting, *inter alia*: (i) the Sixth Interim Fee Application; and (ii) the Monthly Fee Statements. This category also includes the time spent by Herrick professionals preparing for, and attending, the hearing on the Fifth Interim Fee Application.

34. Pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order, each of the Monthly Fee Statements contained a list of individuals who rendered services to the Creditors' Committee and/or the Litigation Designees during the relevant compensation period, information as to each individual's title, billing rate and hours worked, and a comprehensive breakdown of the fees incurred, and disbursements expended. To minimize costs in connection with this time-intensive process,

Herrick relied on paraprofessionals to prepare the initial drafts of the Sixth Interim Fee Application and the Monthly Fee Statements, thereby limiting the time spent by attorneys on the review of fees, where reasonably practicable.

B190 - CONTESTED MATTERS (EXCLU. ASSUMPTION/REJECTION)

Total Hours	Fees
43.1	\$37,079.50

35. This category includes time spent by Herrick professionals and paraprofessionals in connection with their role as Special Conflicts Counsel to the Creditors' Committee, pursuant to the Herrick Retention Order. Through this role, Herrick is, among other things, conducting the Rule 2004 Investigation, as authorized by the Rule 2004 Order, of the Debtors' sale of certain MTNs issued by Debtor SRAC (the "MTN Auction") and is authorized to obtain, and has obtained extensive, discovery from certain participants in the MTN Auction (the "CDS Participants").

36. In furtherance of the Rule 2004 Order, during the Compensation Period, Herrick professionals and paraprofessionals, among other things: (i) analyzed potential estate claims resulting from the Rule 2004 Investigation and standing issues for asserting such claims and (ii) discussed such claims and their potential benefit to the estates with advisors to the Debtors.

37. This work included thorough analysis of documents produced by the CDS Participants and certain publicly available information, extensive discussion of the underlying facts of the MTN Investigation with the consultants retained by the Creditors' Committee, and work product in preparation for interviews. Furthermore, the consultants generated their own work product regarding certain aspects of the CDS marketplace, the ISDA auction process, and data and information provided by the CDS Participants, which we have analyzed and relied upon.

JOINTLY ASSERTED CAUSES OF ACTION

Total Hours	Fees
2.8	\$2,267.50

38. This category includes time spent by Herrick professionals and paraprofessionals in connection with their role as Special Conflicts Counsel to the Litigation Designees as to the Cyrus Defendants¹⁰ and certain recipients of third-party subpoenas in the Adversary Proceeding. During the Compensation Period, Herrick attorneys, among other things, analyzed potential additional claims in connection with the Adversary Proceeding.

ACTUAL AND NECESSARY DISBURSEMENTS

39. Herrick seeks allowance of reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$509.69 for expenses incurred during the Compensation Period in the course of providing professional services to the Creditors' Committee. Herrick's disbursement policies pass through all out-of-pocket expenses at actual cost or an estimated actual cost when the actual cost is difficult to determine. For example, as it relates to computerized research, Herrick believes that it does not make a profit on that service as a whole although the cost of any particular search is difficult to ascertain. Other reimbursable expenses (whether the service is performed by Herrick in-house or through a third party vendor) include, but are not limited to, long-distance calls, overtime meals, deliveries, court costs, transcript fees, discovery and temporary legal staffing services, travel and clerk fees.

¹⁰ As defined in the First Amended Adversary Complaint, the "Cyrus Defendants" are the following entities: Cyrus Capital Partners, LP; Crescent 1, LP; Canary SC Fund, LP; CYR Fund, LP; CMH VI, LP; Cyrus Opportunities Master Fund II, Ltd.; CRS Master Fund, LP; Canary SC Master Fund, LP; Cyrus Select Opportunities Master Fund, Ltd.; Cyrus Special Strategies Master Fund, LP; and Cyrus 1740 Master Fund, LP.

FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN AWARDING ATTORNEYS' FEES

40. Bankruptcy Code section 330 provides, in relevant part, that the Court may award to a professional person “reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services rendered[.]”

See 11 U.S.C. § 330(a)(1). In turn, Bankruptcy Code section 330 provides as follows:

In determining the amount of reasonable compensation to be awarded, the court shall consider the nature, the extent, and the value of such services, taking into account all relevant factors, including –

- (A) the time spent on such services;
- (B) the rates charged for such services;
- (C) whether the services were necessary to the administration of, or beneficial at the time at which the service was rendered toward the completion of, a case under this title;
- (D) whether the services were performed within a reasonable amount of time commensurate with the complexity, importance, and nature of the problem, issue, or task addressed; and
- (E) with respect to a professional person, whether the person is board certified or otherwise has demonstrated skill and experience in the bankruptcy field; and
- (F) whether the compensation is reasonably based on the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners in cases other than cases under this title.

11 U.S.C. § 330(a)(3).

41. The clear congressional intent and policy expressed in Bankruptcy Code section 330 is to provide for adequate compensation in order to continue to attract qualified and competent bankruptcy practitioners to bankruptcy cases. *In re Drexel Burnham Lambert Grp., Inc.*, 133 B.R. 13, 20 (Bantu. S.D.N.Y. 1991) (“Congress’ objective in requiring that the market, not the Court, establish attorneys’ rates was to ensure that bankruptcy cases were staffed by appropriate legal specialists.”); *In re Busy Beaver Bldg. Ctrs., Inc.*, 19 F.3d 833, 850 (3d. Cir.1994) (citations and internal quotations omitted) (“Congress rather clearly intended to provide sufficient economic incentive to lure competent bankruptcy specialists to practice in the bankruptcy courts.”).

42. In assessing the “reasonableness” of the fees requested, the Second Circuit has stated that courts should consider the factors enumerated in *Johnson v. Ga. Highway Express, Inc.*, while also incorporating the “lodestar method.” See *Arbor Hill Concerned Citizens Neighborhood Ass’n v. County of Albany and Albany County Bd. of Elections*, 522 F.3d 182, 190 (2d Cir. 2007) (citing *Johnson v. Ga. Highway Express, Inc.*, 488 F.2d 714 (5th Cir.1974), *abrogated on other grounds by Blanchard v. Bergeron*, 489 U.S. 87, 92-93, 96 (1989)). The “lodestar method” of calculating the reasonable fee contemplates “the number of hours reasonably expended . . . multiplied by a reasonable hourly rate.” See *Hensley v. Eckerhart et al.*, 461 U.S. 424, 433 (1983); *Gisbrecht v. Barnhart*, 535 U.S. 789, 801 (2002); *Perdue v. Kenny A.*, 130 S.Ct. 1662, 1672 (2010); *In re Drexel Burnham Lambert Grp., Inc.* 133 B.R. 13 (Bankr. S.D. N.Y. 1991). The factors set forth in *Johnson* and *In re First Colonial Corp. of Am.*, 544 F.2d 1291, 1298-99 (5th Cir. 1977) have been adopted by most courts.¹¹ See *In re Nine Assocs., Inc.*, 76 B.R. 943, 945 (S.D.N.Y. 1987) (adopting *First Colonial/Johnson* analysis); *In re Cuisine Magazine, Inc.*, 61 B.R. 210, 212-13 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y 1986) (same); *Green v. City of New York*, 403 Fed. Appx. 626, 629 (2d Cir. 2010) (summary order); see generally 3 COLLIER ON BANKRUPTCY ¶ 330.03[9] (Lawrence P. King ed., 16th ed. 2016) (describing *First Colonial* and *Johnson* as the “leading cases to be considered in determining a reasonable allowance of compensation”).

43. Herrick respectfully submits that a consideration of these factors should result in the Court's allowance of the full compensation sought in this Application.

- a. Time and Labor Required. Herrick billed a total of 48.2 hours of professional services and 12.8 hours of paraprofessional and other non-legal services during the Compensation Period. As evidenced by this Application, Herrick professionals and paraprofessionals worked diligently and efficiently without unnecessary duplication of efforts throughout the

¹¹ The factors articulated by the Fifth Circuit in *First Colonial* were first articulated by the Fifth Circuit in *Johnson*, with the *First Colonial* out adding the factor of the “spirit of economy,” which was later rejected by Congress. See *Stroock & Stroock & Lawan V. Hillsborough Holdings Corp. (In re Hillsborough Holdings Corp.)*, 127 F.3d 1398, 1403 (11th Cir. 1997).

Compensation Period. This is especially true when considering the nature and complexity of the issues that arose in the Chapter 11 Cases during the Compensation Period. In particular, the Compensation Period involved many material issues that required a favorable resolution for the Debtors' estates, including, among other things, the Rule 2004 Investigation and the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action, described in greater detail above. Herrick's representation of the Creditors' Committee and Litigation Designees has required it to balance the need to provide quality services with the need to represent these parties in an effective, efficient and timely manner. Herrick respectfully submits that the hours spent were reasonable given the size and complexity of the Chapter 11 Cases, the significant legal issues raised, and the numerous pleadings filed in the Chapter 11 Cases.

- b.** Novelty and Difficulty of the Questions. Herrick tasked knowledgeable attorneys to research, analyze and provide advice on difficult and complex bankruptcy, litigation, finance and other issues. As further described herein, Herrick's skilled teams assisted the Creditors' Committee in evaluating, among other things, the bases for various claims against certain CDS Participants in connection with the Rule 2004 Investigation and assisted the Litigation Designees in connection with the claims and causes of action subject to the First Amended Adversary Complaint.
- c.** Skill Requisite to Perform the Legal Services Properly. Herrick believes that its recognized expertise in the area of bankruptcy litigation and corporate restructuring, its ability to draw from highly experienced professionals in other areas of Herrick's practice and its creative approach to the resolution of issues has benefited the Debtors, the Creditors' Committee and the Litigation Designees. Due to the nature and complexity of the legal issues Herrick was retained to investigate and/or prosecute in the Chapter 11 Cases, Herrick was required to exhibit a high degree of legal skill in areas related to, *inter alia*, bankruptcy, litigation, finance and corporate transaction matters. Additionally, Herrick's strong working relationship with the Creditors' Committee's other legal and financial advisors as well as the legal and financial advisors to other parties in interest enabled Herrick to work with such advisors towards a swift, consensual resolution of many of the salient issues in the 2004 Investigation and the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action.
- d.** Preclusion of Other Employment by Applicant Due to Acceptance of the Case. Although Herrick's representation of the Creditors' Committee and the Litigation Designees did not preclude its acceptance of new clients, the demands for immediate and substantive action in connection with the Rule 2004 Investigation and the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action imposed significant burdens on Herrick professionals and paraprofessionals working concurrently on other matters.
- e.** Customary Fee. The rates Herrick charges for the services rendered by its professionals and paraprofessionals in the Chapter 11 Cases are the same

rates Herrick charges for professional and paraprofessional services rendered in comparable non-bankruptcy matters. Herrick's fee structure also is equivalent to the fee structure used by Herrick for restructuring, workout, bankruptcy, insolvency and comparable matters, as well as similar complex corporate and litigation matters, whether in-court or otherwise, regardless of whether a fee application is required. The firm's customary hourly rates and rate structure reflect that restructuring and related matters typically involve great complexity, numerous tasks requiring a high level of expertise and severe time pressures, as is the case here. Herrick's rate structure is similar to the rate structure used by other, similar law firms that work on other, similar matters.

- f. Whether the Fee Is Fixed or Contingent. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code sections 330 and 331, all fees sought by professionals employed under Bankruptcy Code section 1103 are contingent pending final approval by the Court and are subject to adjustment depending upon the services rendered and the results obtained. The contingency of full and actual compensation to Herrick increased the risk Herrick was assuming by representing the Creditors' Committee and Litigation Designees as special conflicts counsel in the Chapter 11 Cases.
- g. Time Limitations Imposed by the Client or Other Circumstances. As previously set forth herein, Herrick was required to attend to certain issues arising in the Rule 2004 Investigation and Jointly Asserted Causes of Action under compressed timelines. The tremendous efforts of Herrick professionals and paraprofessionals in completing this work permitted the Creditors' Committee and Litigation Designees to address effectively various issues for the benefit of the Debtors' unsecured creditors.
- h. Amount Involved and Results Obtained. Herrick professionals and paraprofessionals worked diligently to maximize value for the Debtors' estates and creditors. During the Compensation Period, and as described in the summary of services herein, Herrick was instrumental in maximizing value for the benefit of unsecured creditors. In particular, Herrick's efforts in connection with, among other things, the Rule 2004 Investigation and the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action, effectively maximized the potential assets available for distribution to unsecured creditors. Herrick respectfully submits that the fees requested in this Application are reasonable and appropriate when considering the results obtained on behalf of unsecured creditors as more fully described in the summary of services.
- i. Experience, Reputation and Ability of Attorneys. Attorneys in Herrick's Finance Litigation & Restructuring group are consistently recognized as leading attorneys in the field of bankruptcy and bankruptcy related litigation as well as creditors' rights, business reorganizations and liquidations under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. During the Compensation Period, Herrick solicited the skill and expertise of its attorneys, a number of which have practiced law for over 20 years in a number of jurisdictions and legal

disciplines. Herrick attorneys have actively represented creditors and creditors' committees, as well as other parties in interest, in a number of the nation's largest chapter 11 cases, including *In re The Weinstein Company Holdings*, *In re Blackhawk Mining, Inc.*, *In re Boston Generating, LLC*, *In re Toys "R" Us, Inc.*, *In re GMX Resources, Inc.*, *In re Energy Future Holdings Corp.*, *In re Dynegy Holdings, LLC*, *In re Edison Mission Energy, Inc.*, *In re Loehmann's Holdings, Inc.*, *In re Global Aviation Holdings, Inc.*, *In re Anderson News, LLC*, *In re Trico Marine Services*, *In re American Safety Razor*, *In re Visteon Corp.*, *In re ATX Communications, Inc.*, *In re Global Crossing*, *In re Exide Communications*, *Loral Space and Communications* and *In re X0 Communications, Inc.*, and many others. Herrick's extensive experience enables it to perform the services described herein competently and expeditiously.

- j. "Undesirability" of the Cases. This factor is not applicable to the Chapter 11 Cases.
- k. Nature and Length of Professional Relationship. Herrick has been rendering professional services to the Creditors' Committee since it was selected as counsel to the Creditors' Committee on January 2, 2019.

44. For the reasons set forth above, the services rendered by Herrick were necessary and beneficial to the Creditors' Committee and the Litigation Designees and consistently performed in a timely manner. The compensation sought in this Application is reasonable in light of the value of such services to the Creditors' Committee, the Litigation Designees and all unsecured creditors, Herrick's demonstrated skill and expertise in the bankruptcy field (as well as other areas of expertise relevant to the Chapter 11 Cases) and the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners at Herrick. Accordingly, Herrick respectfully submits that the Court should approve the compensation for professional services and reimbursement of expenses sought herein.

45. No agreement or understanding exists between Herrick and any other person for the sharing of any compensation to be received for professional services rendered or to be rendered in connection with the Chapter 11 Cases. No prior application has been made in this Court or in any other court for the relief requested herein as it relates to the Compensation Period.

ATTORNEY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO U.S. TRUSTEE GUIDELINES

46. The following is provided in response to the request for additional information set forth in ¶ C.5. of the U.S. Trustee Guidelines.

Question: Did you agree to any variations from, or alternatives to, your standard or customary billing rates, fees or terms for services pertaining to this engagement that were provided during the application period? If so, please explain.

Response: No.

Question: If the fees sought in this fee application as compared to the fees budgeted for the time period covered by this fee application are higher by 10% or more, did you discuss the reasons for the variation with the client?

Response: Not applicable.

Question: Have any of the professionals included in this fee application varied their hourly rate based on the geographic location of the bankruptcy case?

Response: No.

Question: Does the fee application include time or fees related to reviewing or revising time records or preparing, reviewing, or revising invoices? (This is limited to work involved in preparing and editing billing records that would not be compensable outside of bankruptcy and does not include reasonable fees for preparing a fee application.). If so, please quantify by hours and fees.

Response: No.

Question: Does this fee application include time or fees for reviewing time records to redact any privileged or other confidential information? If so, please quantify by hours and fees.

Response: See above.

Question: If the fee application includes any rate increases since retention: (i) Did your client review and approve those rate increases in advance? (ii) Did your client agree when retaining the law firm to accept all future rate increases? If not, did you inform your client that they need not agree to modified rates or terms in order to have you continue the representation, consistent with ABA Formal Ethics Opinion 11-458?

Response: Herrick disclosed to the Creditors' Committee the hourly rates charged at the time of its retention. Herrick increased its rates on January 1, 2022,

consistent with its customary practice and as disclosed in the Herrick Retention Application (as defined herein).

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

To the extent that there are services rendered or expenses incurred that relate to the Compensation Period but were not processed prior to the preparation of the Application, Herrick reserves the right to request additional compensation for such services and reimbursement of such expenses in a future application.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, Herrick respectfully requests: (i) an interim allowance of compensation for professional services rendered during the Compensation Period in the amount of \$46,688.00 and expense reimbursement in the amount of \$509.69; (ii) the allowance of such compensation for professional services rendered and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred be without prejudice to Herrick's right to seek additional compensation for services performed and expenses incurred during the Compensation Period which were not processed at the time of the Application; and (iii) such other and further relief as the Court deems just, proper and equitable.

Dated: New York, New York
April 14, 2022

HERRICK, FEINSTEIN LLP

By: /s/ Stephen B. Selbst
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*Special Conflicts Counsel to the Official Committee of
Unsecured Creditors of Sears Holdings Corporation, et
al.*

EXHIBIT A

CERTIFICATION OF STEPHEN B. SELBST

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

----- X	
In re:	: Chapter 11
	: :
SEARS HOLDINGS CORPORATION, <i>et al.</i> ,	: Case No. 18-23538 (RDD)
	: :
Debtors ¹	: (Jointly Administered)
	: :
	: :
----- X	

**CERTIFICATION UNDER THE FEE GUIDELINES IN RESPECT OF THE
SEVENTH INTERIM FEE APPLICATION OF HERRICK, FEINSTEIN LLP
AS SPECIAL CONFLICTS COUNSEL TO THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE
OF UNSECURED CREDITORS FOR ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION
FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE
PERIOD OF NOVEMBER 1, 2021 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

I, Stephen B. Selbst, hereby certify that:²

1. I am a partner with Herrick, a law firm with its main office located at 2 Park Avenue, New York, New York. Herrick is special conflicts counsel to the Creditors'

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are as follows: Sears Holdings Corporation (0798); Kmart Holding Corporation (3116); Kmart Operations LLC (6546); Sears Operations LLC (4331); Sears, Roebuck and Co. (0680); ServiceLive Inc. (6774); A&E Factory Service, LLC (6695); A&E Home Delivery, LLC (0205); A&E Lawn & Garden, LLC (5028); A&E Signature Service, LLC (0204); FBA Holdings Inc. (6537); Innovel Solutions, Inc. (7180); Kmart Corporation (9500); MaxServ, Inc. (7626); Private Brands, Ltd. (4022); Sears Development Co. (6028); Sears Holdings Management Corporation (2148); Sears Home & Business Franchises, Inc. (6742); Sears Home Improvement Products, Inc. (8591); Sears Insurance Services, L.L.C. (7182); Sears Procurement Services, Inc. (2859); Sears Protection Company (1250); Sears Protection Company (PR) Inc. (4861); Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. (0535); Sears, Roebuck de Puerto Rico, Inc. (3626); SYW Relay LLC (1870); Wally Labs LLC (None); Big Beaver of Florida Development, LLC (None); California Builder Appliances, Inc. (6327); Florida Builder Appliances, Inc. (9133); KBL Holding Inc. (1295); KLC, Inc. (0839); Kmart of Michigan, Inc. (1696); Kmart of Washington LLC (8898); Kmart Stores of Illinois LLC (8897); Kmart Stores of Texas LLC (8915); MyGofer LLC (5531); Sears Brands Business Unit Corporation (4658); Sears Holdings Publishing Company, LLC. (5554); Sears Protection Company (Florida), L.L.C. (4239); SHC Desert Springs, LLC (None); SOE, Inc. (9616); StarWest, LLC (5379); STI Merchandising, Inc. (0188); Troy Coolidge No. 13, LLC (None); BlueLight.com, Inc. (7034); Sears Brands, L.L.C. (4664); Sears Buying Services, Inc. (6533); Kmart.com LLC (9022); SHC Licensed Business LLC (3718); SHC Promotions LLC (9626); Sears Brands Management Corporation (5365); and SRe Holding Corporation (4816). The location of the Debtors' corporate headquarters is 3333 Beverly Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60179.

² Capitalized terms used herein but otherwise not defined shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Application.

Committee of Sears Holdings Corporation and its affiliated debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “Debtors”) and also serves, pursuant to the Confirmation Order, as special conflicts counsel in connection with certain conflicts matters relating to the Adversary Proceeding.

2. In accordance with the Fee Guidelines, this certification is made with respect to the Application, for interim allowance of compensation and reimbursement of expenses incurred during the Compensation Period.

3. In respect of section B.1 of the Local Guidelines, I certify that:

- (a) I have read the Application;
- (b) to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the fees and disbursements sought fall within the Fee Guidelines;
- (c) the fees and disbursements sought are billed at rates in accordance with those customarily charged by Herrick and generally accepted by Herrick’s clients; and
- (d) in providing a reimbursable service, Herrick does not make a profit on that service, whether the service is performed by Herrick in-house or through a third party.

4. In accordance with section B.2 of the Local Guidelines and as required by the Interim Compensation Order, I certify that Herrick has complied with those provisions requiring it to provide the Debtors and the Creditors’ Committee with a statement of Herrick’s fees and disbursements accrued during the previous month, although, due to administrative limitations, such statements were not always provided within the timeframe set forth in the Local Guidelines or the Interim Compensation Order.³

³ We have been sending Herrick’s weekly accrual information to M-III Partners, L.P., the Debtors’ restructuring advisors, since the Summer of 2019, on a weekly basis or as soon thereafter as was reasonably practicable.

5. In respect of section B.3 of the Local Guidelines, I certify that the Debtors, the U.S. Trustee and the members of the Creditors' Committee are each being provided with a copy of the Application.

Dated: New York, New York
April 14, 2022

By: /s/ Stephen B. Selbst
Stephen B. Selbst

EXHIBIT B

CUSTOMARY AND COMPARABLE COMPENSATION DISCLOSURE

Blended Hourly Rates		
Category of Timekeeper	Billed by Timekeepers NY Office for Preceding Year¹	Billed in this Application
Partner	\$836.49	\$898.23
Counsel	\$610.37	\$690.00
Associate	\$430.00	\$475.00
Paralegals	\$341.00	\$414.92
All Timekeepers Aggregated	\$539.72	

¹ Consistent with the U.S. Trustee Guidelines, this **Exhibit B** discloses the blended hourly rate for the aggregate of all timekeepers in the domestic offices of Herrick, segregated by category. This data is based on Herrick's prior completed fiscal year.

EXHIBIT C

SUMMARY OF COMPENSATION BY TIMEKEEPER

Name of Professional	Position	Department	Year Admitted	Hourly Billing Rate 2020/2021	Total Hours Billed	Total Compensation
O'Donnell, Sean	Partner	Restructuring & Finance Litigation	1998	\$1,075.00/ \$1,125.00	1	\$1,100.00
Carty, Christopher	Partner	Restructuring & Finance Litigation	2010	\$850.00 / \$925.00	37.6	\$33,700.00
Kolb, Kyle J.	Partner ²²	Restructuring & Finance Litigation	2012	\$690.00 / \$715.00	9.3	\$6,434.00
Zimmer, Heather	Associate	Restructuring & Finance Litigation	2018	\$475.00	0.3	\$142.50
Poretsky, Larisa	Paralegal	Restructuring & Finance Litigation	N/A	\$410.00 / \$455.00	12.8	\$5,311.00

²² Effective January 1, 2022.

EXHIBIT D

SUMMARY OF COMPENSATION BY TASK CODE

Task Code²³	Task Code Category	Hours Budgeted (Low – High)	Amount Budgeted (Low – High)	Actual Hours	Actual Amount
B160	Fee/Employment Applications	20 – 30	\$10,500 – \$15,500	15.1	\$7,341.00
B190	Contested Matters	40 – 60	\$35,000 – \$65,000	43.1	\$37,079.50
	Jointly Asserted Causes of Action	10 – 20	\$8,000 - \$16,000	2.8	\$2,267.50
TOTAL		70 - 110	\$53,500 – \$96,500	61	\$46,688.00

²³ The fees related to task codes B160 and B190 are Herrick’s fees attributable to the services it performs as counsel to the Creditors’ Committee in connection with the Chapter 11 Cases, and such fees are paid out of the Debtors’ carve-out account. Pursuant to the terms of the Plan and Confirmation Order, however, Herrick’s fees and expenses attributable to the services it performs in connection with the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action are paid out of a segregated account established to provide initial funding for such litigation. *See* Confirmation Order ¶ 52(d). During the Compensation Period, Herrick incurred no fees and expenses related to the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action.

EXHIBIT E

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

Description	Amount billed
Document Processing	\$12.88
Pacer Charges	\$28.10
Online Research (Westlaw)	\$61.87
Printing – Blowback	\$6.84
E-Discovery Data Hosting Minimum Charge	\$400.00
Total	\$509.69

EXHIBIT F

STAFFING PLAN

Category of Timekeeper	Number of Timekeepers Expected to Work on Matter During the Compensation Period	Average Hourly Rate
Partner	3	\$921.67
Associate	2	\$475.00
Paralegals	2	\$450.00